

*Rahportem: Bolan Murphy.*

*Panel on Trade, Cyber Security etc.*

*Moderator: Francesco Cologno*

On this panel the Moderator initially explained the difference between a nuclear weapon and a nuclear explosive device. An explosive device, for example, would not be transportable, nor would it necessarily be precise. Such a device would in fact be easier to manufacture on or near the target site itself. But participants should understand that such a device would in fact be easy to manufacture with basic knowledge and with the acquisition of basic materials.

The Moderator also explained that as little as 100 kilograms of enriched uranium would be more than enough for a terrorist to produce a Hiroshima-sized explosion. By contrast Russia had as much as one million kilograms of such dangerous material "available" - should it fall into the wrong hands. In regard to such stocks, many security measures were indeed in place. But much more in the way of security still needed to be done.

It was also explained that plutonium does not exist in nature. Large stocks of the material did, however, exist in, for example, Japan. Moreover, while it was extremely difficult to produce an explosion from this plutonium, it was certainly not impossible.

The panel then saw a presentation from *Panellist Neskovic*. He described a nuclear facility of the former Yugoslavia, now in Serbia. Quantities of nuclear waste were stored there. What the facility suffered from was a lack of clear vision as to how to proceed. There was indeed a problem of how to dispose of waste nuclear material. The danger of illicit trade in the material had to be dealt with. One of the ideas for dealing with the facility involved the construction of a business park. Such a park would also have special relations with IATA, CERN etc. And it needed to be remembered that medicine, for example, had benefited much from radio biology - there were ways indeed when "nuclear" meant "health" and "life-giving".

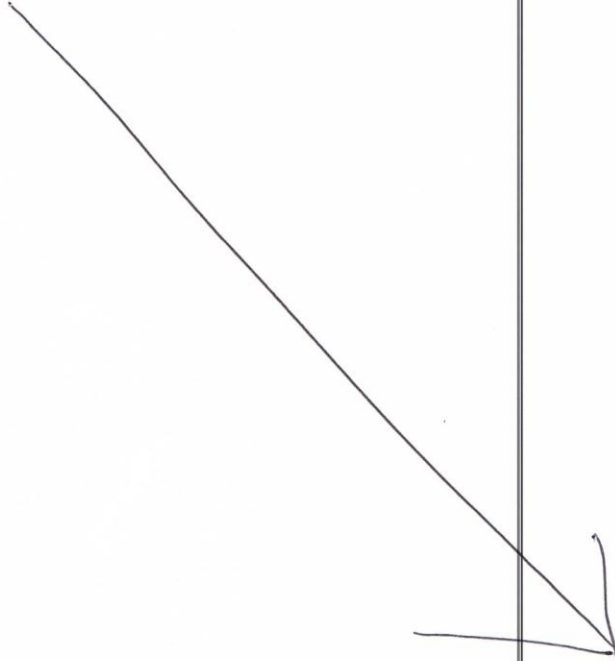
*Panellist Budimir Loncar* asked why the world had made such "progress" on the technology of war and had made so little progress, relatively, against poverty. Negative trends continued in the last 10 years in the fields of disarmament and arms control. And while nuclear energy had contributed greatly to medicine, food production, electricity etc., still global insecurity overall increased. Geo-political concerns continued to add to negative world trends.

Mr. Loncar went on to say that the early promise of UN disarmament talks had produced little. The results of these talks was disappointing and it was clear that the Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved in this area. International fora were simply underlining and emphasizing the existence of divisions and geopolitical fault lines.

Mr Loncar said that issues of nuclear security could not be discussed outside the context of world and regional political dynamics and problems. Some 19,000 nuclear held by 8 states continued to haunt the rest of the world. Four countries with such weapons had not acceded to the NPT. Only new geo-political approaches could improve that situation.

In the recent Non-Aligned meeting in Tehran, more than 100 countries had opposed the further proliferation of nuclear weapons. And it was good that President Obama had just now spoken of the need for greater world security - and that that security needed a new mind-set. Peace, in other words, was not just the absence of war.

*Panelist Yuri Scherbak of the Ukraine* spoke of the large quantities of nuclear materials left in the Ukraine. Given the tragedy of Chernobyl, the Ukraine was the place of the most nuclear contamination in the world.



**Panellist Yuri Scherbak of the Ukraine** spoke of the large quantities of nuclear materials left in the Ukraine. Given the tragedy of Chernobyl, the Ukraine was the place of the most nuclear contamination in the world. Such a situation was an attraction to terrorists. The Ukraine had therefore installed widespread and far-reaching measures for safety – including the adoption of constitutional and other legal provisions. The Ukraine closely cooperated with IATA and other appropriate organizations. The Ukraine was now considered one of the most responsible states in regard to dealing with nuclear danger.

The speaker also reported that the secret services of the Ukraine had, in recent years, dealt successfully with and frustrated the plans of some 15 criminal organizations involved with illicit radioactive material. Moreover, the Ukraine trained all its front line officers (customs, border patrols etc.) in the detection of illicit materials.

An important new danger though, according to the speaker, was that of cyber threat.

\* \* \*

A number of conference participants then put questions to the previous speakers: who exactly were these 15 criminal organizations that sought to deal in illicit materials; what, one speaker asked, was the official status of Israel in the field of nuclear states ?; what was the role of small non-nuclear countries, how could they help ?

Another participant said that the science of dealing with nuclear waste was actually extremely complex. There were also accounting problems.

A larger issue, however, was the environmental problem of nuclear hazards – coming on top of mounting world concerns about global warming and fears for the planet's future.

## ***Cyber security***

On this topic the conference heard a presentation from **Benjamin Gittins**.

Cyber attacks, it was pointed out, were quite a different kind of issue from nuclear weapon attack or threat. The cyber issue was everywhere, pervasive. Nuclear weapons dangers were separate.

The speaker pointed out that safety and security concerns needed to be integrated. The design philosophy of those who built or developed computers had been about information sharing. Now, the protection behind adequate walls of that information was quite a different challenge.\

It was necessary, the speaker said, to reduce fear and increase trust internationally.

**Conclusions\**

This panel came to no firm and specific conclusions. It heard from expert speakers and learned far more about the technical problems of both illicit nuclear trade as well as the new challenges of cyber security.

The panel heard lively debate. And one perhaps over-arching conclusion was that the situation in the world was even far more dangerous and urgent than had been thought. It was certainly not impossible, for instance, for a terrorist to explode a nuclear device, with devastating consequences.

Moreover, the dangers of large scale cyber attacks were compounding the problem.

It might well be the conclusion of this panel that a great acceleration of international effort was now needed to cope with steadily and alarmingly mounting nuclear threats and dangers, worldwide.

(end)